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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus comprising:

    a network interface, through which the apparatus facilitates communication between a client device and a remote device at any of a number of alternative service levels; and

    a controller, coupled to the network interface, to dynamically create and remove filters controlling access to the different service levels based, at least in part, on an admissions profile.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filter(s), when triggered, initiate an admission control decision preventing premature allocation of service level resources which are not yet required or authorized.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the filters are triggered by information contained within received data packets.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the filters are triggered by one or both of packet source information and packet destination information.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the admissions profile is stored in a communicatively coupled remote device.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the communicatively coupled remote device is a bandwidth broker or other generic policy server.

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1   7.   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the admissions profile is available locally within

2   the apparatus.

1   8.   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller establishes an ingress profile in

2   response to detecting an associated trigger event, wherein the ingress profile modifies the

3   received data packets adhering to the filter criteria to denote a particular service level, in

4   accordance with the admissions profile.

1   9.   The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the controller removes ingress profiles when data

2   packets adhering to the filter criteria are no longer received, liberating apparatus resources.

1   10.   The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the controller removes ingress profiles after a

2   predetermined period of time, liberating apparatus resources.

1   11.   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller removes filters in accordance with a

2   network administration policy.

1   12.   The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the controller removes filters based, at least in

2   part, on time-of-day.

1   13.   A method for controlling provision of differentiated services in a data network, the

2   method comprising:

3   (a)   installing a filter on a network edge device to provide a trigger notification

4   upon detecting data packets adhering to filter criteria, in accordance with a network

5   administration policy; and

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6   (b)   dynamically creating an ingress profiler which polices admission to a

7   particular service level.

1   14.   The method of claim 13, further comprising (c) marking the received data packets

2   adhering to the filter criteria according to a subscribed service level.

1   15.   The method of claim 13, wherein the ingress profiler polices admission to a particular

2   service level by allowing only those received data packets adhering to the filter criteria of a

3   particular service level to proceed at that service level.

add b2)

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